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APPLICATION NO.	FIL	ING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/636,080	08	3/07/2003	Takeshi Murata	13547	9823
75	90	10/30/2006		EXAM	INER
ORUM & ROTH 53 W. JACKSON BLVD		SCHWARTZ, CHRISTOPHER P			
CHICAGO, IL				ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
J1, 12				3683	

DATE MAILED: 10/30/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary 10/635,080		Application No.	Applicant(s)				
Christopher P. Schwartz 3683 Period for Reply A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MALING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. Extensions of time may be evaluable under the provisions of 3°C FR 1.136(s). In revent, however, may a risply be larily that state 3°C Risplants and 10°C RR 1.136(s). In revent, however, may a risply be larily that state 3°C RR 1.000 EXPIRE 2 MONTH(SE) to the major gale of this communication. If NO period for may is spatialed above, the measurem statestory provided will apply and will expire SX (6) MONTHS from the major gale of this communication. If NO period for may is spatialed above, the measurem statestory provided will apply and will expire SX (6) MONTHS from the major gale of this communication and state 3°C RR 1.704(s). Status 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 August 2006. 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is FINAL. 2c) This action is required the major action action action action action action requirement. 2c) This action is state action action action requirement. 2c) This action is state action action action action requirement. 2c) This action is state action action action action requirement. 2d) This action is state action is objected to by the Examiner. 2d) This action is provided the provided action action action action action action action action action		10/636,080	MURATA, TAKESHI				
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Attachment(s) 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date Paper No(s)/Mail Date Other: S. Patent and Trademark Office PTO(1, 326 (Pay, 08.06)			2011/10				
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DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant's response filed August 18, 2006 has been received and considered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

- 2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:
 - (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.
- 3. Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over European Patent Application 1113186 ('186) in view of Haraikawa et al. or Namie et al..

Regarding claim 1 '186 discloses a shock absorber similar in structure to that of applicants. Note the similar valve assembly in figures 3 and 4.

'186 lacks a description of the threading of the bolt/nut 66,68 with respect to the winding of the coil 82.

However from the drawings it appears the nut of '186 rotates in the same direction as that of applicants which would seem to indicate the direction of the threading on the bolt is the same. However the winding of the coil is apparently different than that of applicants.

Both references to Namie et al. or Haraikawa et al. teach it is well known to use coil springs in a variety of applications which use coil springs with a left handed winding direction and opposite to the threaded fasteners mechanically connected to them. See Haraikawa et al. bottom of column 3 to top of column 4.

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One having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would have found it obvious to have made the threading of the bolt of EP '186 opposite to the orientation of the winding of the coil spring 82, as taught by either Namie et al. or Fischer et al. to tighten down the spring with an appropriately threaded nut simply as an alternate equivalent arrangement to that shown or dependent upon the particular design of manufacturing equipment that is available to make the coil spring. Note that in the abstract Namie that due to the particular winding direction of the coil spring and the threading of the plug, "... the tensioner can be assembled very smoothly without producing powders by abrasion which may hinder smooth sliding movement of the plunger". Therefore there may be expected benefits during assembly of the device with the modified winding and threading arrangement above.

Regarding claims 2-6,13-18 due to the close similarity of structure between EP '186 and that of applicants these requirements are either met or simply an obvious variation of the valve assembly of '186 as can easily be seen in the drawings.

Regarding claims 7-12, in light of the modification above these requirements are met.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments filed August 18, 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

As previously discussed, because coil springs and threaded fasteners have such a wide application in the mechanical arts, as shown by Namie et al. or Haraikawa et al.,

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the art is maintained to be relevant to the EP '186 reference and to the instant application.

Because of the close similarity in structure between applicant's invention and EP '186 but with the exception of the threading of the bolt/nut 66,68 with respect to the winding of the coil 82 - which is taught by Namie et al. or Haraikawa et al.. the rejection above is believe to be proper since such a modification to EP '186 according to either of the teachings of the modifying references amounts to an obvious engineering structural equivalent arrangement and would not affect the intended function of the device.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christopher P. Schwartz whose telephone number is 571-272-7123. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 10:30-7:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jim McClellan can be reached on 571-272-6786. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic

Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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